

Cont
A)

weight fraction with a branching degree of at least 0.5, when treated under accelerating conditions for acid hydrolysis of hyaluronic acid.

16. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the gel has not been subjected to chemical crosslinking by a chemical crosslinking compound or chemical modification by a chemical modifying compound and which is not in the form of a complex with a cationic polymer and (1) which dissolves in a neutral aqueous solution at 25°C in one day to a degree of dissolution of at most 50% or (2) which dissolves in a neutral aqueous solution at 37°C in 12 hours to a degree of dissolution of at most 50%, or both.

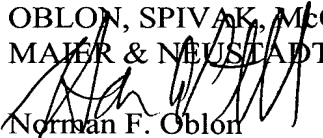
REMARKS

Claims 13-16 correspond to Claims 7 and 13-15, respectively, of the parent application, which were cancelled by Examiner's amendment therein.

The application is ripe for examination on the merits. An early examination is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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